

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

9 MAR. 1962

~~TOP SECRET~~

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LATE ITEM

Berlin

Ten TU-16s entered the East German airspace from the USSR this morning. Two dropped chaff, one engaged in S-band jamming. This activity rendered the Tempelhof airport radar ineffective for 30 minutes. We cannot yet be certain whether this was intentional.

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1. Berlin

a. The Soviets, continuing their gradual flooding tactics, have 24 transport flights (12 inbound-12 outbound) scheduled for the northern air corridor this morning from 0352 to 0951 Eastern Standard Time at varying altitudes between 2500 to 6500 feet, in effect pre-empting this block of airspace for the period.

b. As of 0800 the Soviet flights were proceeding normally and no incidents have been reported. Six allied military transport flights are scheduled in the corridor during the critical period.

c. We see in this steadily increasing number of flights and extension of the notification period--they filed today's schedule 20 hours in advance--a ploy whereby, if we followed suit, we would appear to be seeking their prior permission for corridor use or alternatively risk endangering air safety.

d. It is possible that Gromyko may approach us in Geneva alleging the need to renegotiate air access arrangements.

e. On Wednesday the East Germans began using their sheds at the Friedrichstrasse crossing for processing vehicles and pedestrians entering and leaving East Berlin.

f. Ambassador Thompson notes a hint in Mikoyan's Leipzig speech that the Soviets may be reintroducing the time element for a German peace treaty into the Berlin issue.

2. Laos

a. Ambassador Brown continues negotiating with his Western colleagues in Vientiane on suggestions for an acceptable coalition cabinet. London and Canberra are in agreement with his proposals [redacted]

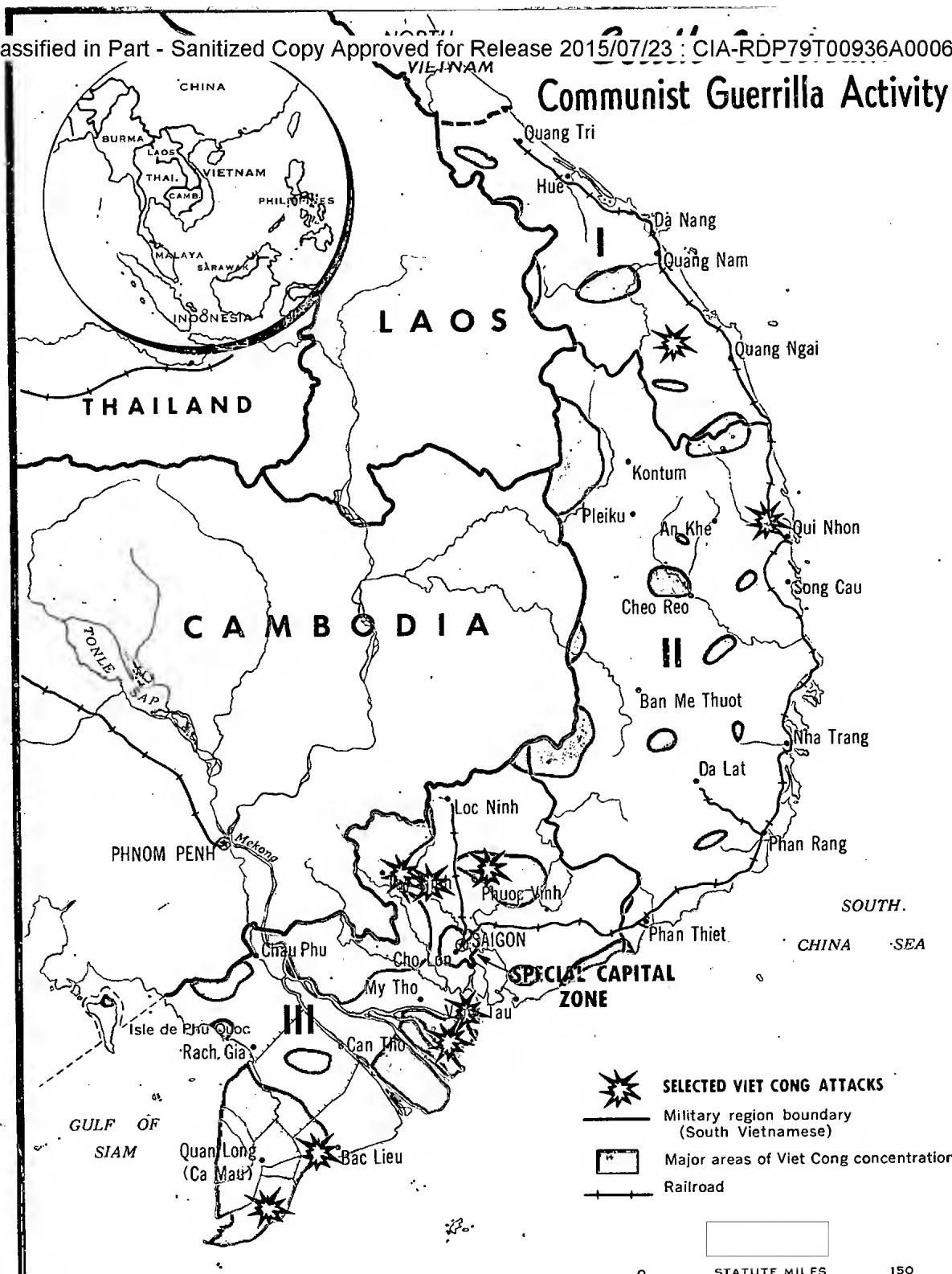
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[redacted] Paris had initial qualms about our proposal for the Foreign Affairs post to Souphannouvong but we expect them to go along.

b. We still see no signs of give on the part of Phoumi and his supporters. Somewhat belatedly he is trying to drum up popular support for his position [redacted]

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c. Embassy Vientiane notes that the wide official distribution given a bitterly anti-American article carried yesterday in the government press organ suggests initiation of a psychological and propaganda campaign to rally public support for Phoumi's opposition to our policy and to Souvanna Phouma.



3. Communist aggressive-
ness in South Vietnam
increasing

a. Since mid-February they have employed larger forces in attacks against their prime targets - Civil Guard and self defense troops manning remote outposts where the Viet Cong are trying to consolidate or link up base areas. The government has suffered heavy casualties in these clashes. The expanding scope of Viet Cong military activity coincides with the Bloc's propaganda campaign to stir up international alarm over South Vietnam as a "threat to world peace."

4. Latin America

a. The still smouldering rebellion in Guatemala is drawing increased Communist attention. The Guatemalan party is pressing for a second guerrilla front there

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b. Ambassador Martin says press reports of yesterday's anti-American incidents in Santo Domingo were exaggerated. He characterizes the attacks on Consulate property as the preplanned work of a youthful street gang organized and incited by a notorious leftist rabble rouser just released from detention. General Rodriguez Echavarria's deportation apparently came as a surprise to the military.

(cont'd)

c. Dominican-Haitian relations are under increasing strain as President Duvalier seeks to quarantine his dictatorship against democratic infection. His opponents, smitten by their neighbor's example, are stirring

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5. Congo

a. The government is proceeding with plans for Adoula-Tshombé talks on the 15th. Tshombé, supposedly out preparing his people for the Adoula meeting, showed up instead in Brazzaville for talks with his arch-ally President Youlou.

b. The UN reports it is now in possession of documents on financial and planned arms support of Tshombé by European mining interests.

c. UN Congo officials continue emphasizing June as the critical target date for fulfilling their mandate.

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NOTES

- A. Mexican Foreign Minister Tello has given Ambassador Mann an emotional presentation on the Colorado River salinity dispute with us, alleging it could assume crisis proportions and is the "most important problem" now facing him.
- B. The Shah of Iran in a lengthy session with Ambassador Holmes Wednesday reiterated his pessimistic outlook on Iran's and his own future.

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- D. Kenya's Jomo Kenyatta actively continues pressing for an invitation to visit the United States soon after completing his current London constitutional talks. His supporters say he is anxious for a bid and our Nairobi Consul General firmly seconds the motion. His London fund raising activities have now brought in \$14,000 from the Tunisians to go along with the \$70,000 Egyptian contribution reported last week.

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- E. In Moscow the party has come up with a typical bureaucratic solution for Soviet agricultural ills - a reorganization. Ambassador Thompson sees it a weak response to the problems outlined by Khrushchev and unlikely to produce any beneficial results this year. The Central Committee plenum technically ends today but a special one day "secret session" is to follow.

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE